

Commissioners,

I strongly oppose this regulatory change because today, 70% - 80% of newspaper circulation in this country is controlled by a just a few large, mostly public chains. Similar trends have occurred in the broadcast industry and the results have been devastating.

If huge media conglomerates continue to swallow up independent newspapers and broadcast outlets, the quality of news and information will be destroyed and America's newsrooms will be transformed from society's watchdogs into corporate lapdogs.

Big corporate media are not concerned with a well-informed citizenry, essential to the democratic process.

Thank you,
Philip W. Stephenson
Concerned Citizen